Proposals for mediation to ease Indo-Pak tension

†221. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from various countries for mediation to ease the tension between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) India is firmly committed to addressing all outstanding issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral dialogue in keeping with the Simla Agreement and reiterated in the Lahore Declaration.

India's commitment to the path of bilateral dialogue in keeping with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration is widely acknowledged and accepted.

There has been international concern on account of recent tensions between India and Pakistan, and its possible impact on the global effort against international terrorism. Government have made it clear that for success of this global effort, Pakistan must put an end, on a permanent basis, to cross border terrorism and infiltration. There is widespread and categorical support for this position.

Departure of foreign citizens due to Indo-Pak tension

†222. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of America, Britain, Japan and other countries had issued instructions to their citizens to leave India keeping in view of the tension at Indo-Pak border during May-June, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of citizens of different countries who have left India for their respective countries since then;

(c) whether Government had taken up this issue with the respective Governments;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.